

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301095

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
ACDA-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 NSF-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
DOTE-00 SIG-01 CEQ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /109 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/BMP:TSELLIN:MJ
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S/P - H. BLANEY
OES/OFA - T. SCULLY

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P R 102247Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TGEN, UK, XV

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY: NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING;
THIRD MONTHLY PREPARATORY MEETING.

REF: A) LONDON 19036; B) STATE 243427 NOTAL; C) LONDON
19756

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PAGE 02 STATE 301095

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL C.

2. DEPARTMENT ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE DECEMBER 14 MONTHLY PREPCOM SHOULD ADDRESS QUESTION OF POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF LNTARCTIC TREATY MEMBERS ASSERTING THEIR CONSULTATIVE STATUS. EMBASSY REP SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE INCLUDED AS PART OF A DRAFT AGENDA ITEM FOR THE NINTH MEETING ON "ACTIVITIES OF COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT CONSULTATIVE PARTIES" OR AS A SEPARATE ITEM. IF A TREATY CONTRACTING PARTY NOT NOW A CONSULTATIVE PARTY APPEARS AT THE OPENING OF NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING, THE ITEM SHOULD LOGICALLY BE THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ITEM OF BUSINESS AT THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING. FYI - U.S. POSITION ON QUESTION IS UNDER STUDY BUT IS NOT YET FULLY DEVELOPED. EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED IN DUE COURSE. END FYI.

3. THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT POLAND WILL EXPECT TO ATTEND THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING. IN CONNECTION WITH ITS KRILL EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC LAST SEASON THE POLISH GOVERNMENT APPOINTED THE EXPEDITION'S SCIENTIFIC LEADER AS AN ANTARCTIC OBSERVER UNDER ARTICLE VII OF THE TREATY, A RIGHT RESERVED TO COUNTRIES ENTITLED TO CONSULT UNDER ARTICLE IX. THE U.S. DECLINED TO RECOGNIZE THE OBSERVER AS SUCH. THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT THE U.S. ALONE OF THE CONSULTATIVE PARTIES TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE APPOINTMENT AND, BY IMPLICATION, POLAND'S CONSULTATIVE STATUS.

4. AT THE XIV SCAR MEETING IN OCTOBER, POLAND, A NON-MEMBER, SENT AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE, WHO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO REPORT THAT POLAND WAS DISPATCHING A KRILL EXPEDITION FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE SEASON AND WOULD CONSTRUCT A PERMANENT WINTER-OVER LAND STATION IN ANTARCTICA THIS SEASON. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED POLAND WOULD APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN SCAR, HAVING ALREADY CREATED THE REQUISITE NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEE. NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE POLISH PLANNED ACTIVITY IN ANTARCTICA HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 301095

WILL BE EXPECTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TREATY ARTICLES III AND VII, PARA 5.

5. DEPARTMENT IS OF THE OPINION THAT PROBABILITY OF POLAND'S ASSERTION OF ENTITLEMENT TO ATTEND THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING BECAUSE OF FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN ARTICLE IX, PARA 2, IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT TO WARRANT THE EARLY STUDY OF THE QUESTION

BY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES IN ORDER THAT MAXIMUM AGREEMENT
ON A MORE SPECIFIC DEFINITION OR UNDERSTANDING OF ARTICLE
IX CAN BE REACHED PRIOR TO THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

6. SINCE WE HAVE INFORMALLY ADVISED THE POLISH EMBASSY
HERE THAT POLES SHOULD DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES ON THE
SUBJECT OF ADMISSION TO THE NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO
THE UK HOST GOVERNMENT (REFTEL B), EMBASSY SHOULD
ASCERTAIN FROM FCO IF IT WOULD PREFER TO INTRODUCE THIS
SUBJECT AT THE DECEMBER 14 MONTHLY PREPARATORY MEETING.
IF NOT, AND UNLESS FCO HAS A CONVINCING REASON FOR
DELAYING DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT, EMBASSY REP SHOULD
INTRODUCE IT. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE301095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TSELLIN:MJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760457-0592
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761252/aaaabszj.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LONDON 19036, 76 STATE 243427
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANTARCTIC TREATY: NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING; THIRD MONTHLY PREPARATORY MEETING.
TAGS: TGEN, UK, XV, US
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006